

sub 1
[22, 24, 26, 28 and 29, or a polypeptide [substantially homologous thereto] having at least 70% amino acid homology thereto over 30 or more amino acids.

2. (Amended) A polypeptide in [substantially] isolated form which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of [Seq.ID.No:] SEQ ID NO: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 29.

4 3. (Amended) A polypeptide which comprises a fragment of a polypeptide defined in claim 1 [or 2], 2 or 24, said fragment comprising at least 12 amino acids [and] which include an epitope.

sub C 2
B
13. (Twice Amended) A method of detecting the presence or absence of antibodies in an animal or human, against a pathogenic mycobacteria in a sample which comprises:

- (a) providing a polypeptide according to Claim 1 [or 2], 2 or 24 or a polypeptide which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of [Seq.ID.No:] SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 or a polypeptide [substantially homologous thereto] having at least 70% amino acid homology thereto over 30 or more amino acids, which comprises an epitope;
- (b) incubating a biological sample with said polypeptide under conditions which allow for the formation of an antibody-antigen complex; and
- (c) determining whether antibody-antigen complex comprising said polypeptide is formed.

~~5~~ 16. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 1 [or 2], 2 or ~~24~~³ in a suitable carrier or diluent.

sub C3
B3
~~17. (Amended) A composition according to claim 16 or a composition comprising a polypeptide which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of [Seq.ID.No:] SEQ ID NO: 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 or a polypeptide [substantially homologous thereto] having at least 70% amino acid homology thereto over 30 or more amino acids, for use in the treatment or prevention of diseases caused by mycobacteria.~~

Please add new claim 24 as follows:

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~~24. A polypeptide in isolated form which comprises a sequence selected from the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 29, or a polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid homology thereto over 30 or more amino acids.--~~

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 4-11, 14, 15, 18 and 20-23, have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 13, 16, 17 and 24 are pending. Support for claim 24 may be found, for example, at page 15, lines 19-31 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

To the extent not obviated by the above, the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1-3, 13 and 16-17, is traversed. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested in view of the above.